

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172343

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R 292136Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS

UNCLAS STATE 172343

FOL TEL FROM USUN NEWYORK AUG 23, 73 TO SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO ABIDJAN ADDIS ABABA BAMAKO BELGRADE CANBERRA CARACAS
DAR ES SALAAM FREETOWN JAKARTA KABUL MOSCOW NEW DELHI
PORT OF SPAIN PRAGUE SANTIAGO SOFIA STOCKHOLM TEHRAN TUNIS
PEKING IS REPTD.

QTE UNCLAS USUN 2944

DEPT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

DEPT POUCH SUVA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT BY AMB SCALI, AUG 22, REGARDING
SPECIAL COMITE OF 24'S DECISION TO GRANT A HEARING TO
TWO PUERTO RICAN ORGANIZATIONS:

"LAST YEAR, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION FORCEFULLY
STATED THE BASIC UNITED STATES POSITION ON THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PUERTO
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PAGE 02 STATE 172343

RICO. MY PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR BUSH, WROTE TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 28, 1972 THAT SUCH INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE AN AFFRONT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION OF 1953, WHICH DECLARED PUERTO RICO TO BE SELF GOVERNING.

IN COMMENTING ON TODAY'S ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE, I HAVE ONLY ONE POINT TO ADD. THE MOST ELOQUENT AND PERSUASIVE TESTIMONY TO THE POLITICAL SENTIMENTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE WAS DELIVERED ON NOVEMBER 8, 1972, WHEN WELL OVER A MILLION PUERTO RICANS WENT TO THE POLLS, IN AN ELECTION WHICH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AGREED WAS A FREE ONE. THE FRINGE ELEMENTS WHICH THE COMMITTEE TODAY AGREED TO HEAR COLLECTED ALL OF 4 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. A TOTAL OF 96 PERCENT REJECTED THE EXTREMIST ARGUMENTS THAT THIS TINY CLIQUE OF SELF-APPOINTED SPOKESMEN IS NOW SEEKING TO REVIVE HERE IN NEW YORK RATHER THAN IN PUERTO RICO. THE PROPER PLACE FOR THESE PEOPLE TO SELL THEIR VIEWS IS NOT IN NEW YORK BUT IN PUERTO RICO. THEY KNOW FULL WELL, HOWEVER, THAT THESE VIEWS ONCE AGAIN WOULD BE RESOUNDINGLY REJECTED BY THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE ON THEIR EVOLVING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, MY GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON OF PUERTO RICO ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 2, 1973 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW FOURTEEN MEMBER AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP COMPOSED OF OUTSTANDING PUERTO RICANS AND AMERICANS ON THE MAINLAND. OUR PEOPLES ARE JUSTLY PROUD OF THE HISTORIC EVOLUTION OF THE FREE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. NO AMOUNT OF SPEECH MAKING IN THE COMMITTEE CAN DIMINISH THIS UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT."SCALI

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